

Thank you....and thank you Mr. Waxman for spearheading the Safe Climate Caucus. I look forward to playing an active role.

I am pleased to join my colleagues this morning in demonstrating our deep commitment... to mitigating and reversing the effects of climate change.

This issue is very real and it is not going anywhere.

We can no longer afford to ignore it... and pretend it isn't happening...like some policy makers would prefer.

Extreme weather is occurring all around our country.

Over the past year, our nation has experienced the unfortunate...and dramatic consequences... of droughts, wildfires and hurricanes.

The tragic flooding from Hurricane Sandy was a vivid reminder of the devastating impacts that can result from global warming.

My district of Sacramento...California...is the most at-risk urban area for a major flood event. For all of us...the lesson of Hurricane Sandy is that climate change is real...and it needs to be addressed...before our city also faces a major flood event.

This should not be a partisan issue. We know it is a priority. My constituents in Sacramento know it is a top priority. The vast majority of Americans know it is a top priority.

We owe it to all Americans....now and future generations...to demonstrate the courage and commitment needed to heed the warnings...work together on a bipartisan basis...and address the increasingly obvious threat of climate change in a serious and constructive manner.

And now I would like to introduce our final speaker, Representative Barbara Lee. She is leading voice in

**protecting the environment, protecting our public lands,
and investing in renewable energy.**